

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:175

ANSWERED ON:02.02.2017

Implementation of Regional Air Connectivity Scheme

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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of progress made so far under regional air connectivity scheme, UDAN under the new civil aviation policy;
- (b) the list of places included in the first phase of the scheme and the number of regional airports being constructed in Tier-II and Tier-III cities in the country along with the current status of work on those airports;
- (c) the number of airports that are proposed to be constructed under Public Private Partnership (PPP) under the scheme;
- (d) the total investment required in building 50 new airports to handle the growing air traffic;
- (e) the time frame fixed by the Government to start flight operations from regional airports; and
- (f) whether Air India expansion plan is proposed under the Regional Connectivity Scheme and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a): Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Government of India launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN on 21st October, 2016. The e-bidding process commenced from 5th December 2016. Last date of submission of initial bids on e-bid portal was up-to 16.01.2017. Technical bids will be opened on 03.02.2017. States Governments such as Maharashtra, Gujrat, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, Assam, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh, Pondicherry, Uttrakhand, Uttar Pradesh Himachal Pradesh, Daman and Diu and Manipur have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MoCA and Airports Authority of India (AAI) to provide concessions as mentioned in the Scheme.;

(b) to (d): The list of places included in the first phase of the Scheme are attached at Annexure 1A and Annexure 1B. Government has decided to revive 50 un-served/under-served airstrips / airports including civil enclave and defence airports at an estimated cost of Rs. 4500 crores, over a period of three years. The construction of airport is demand driven, depending on firm demand from the airline operators and where the State Government agrees to provide various concession envisaged in the Policy.

(e): The time required for operationalizing an airport depends on the type of aircraft for which it is to be operationalized, available infrastructure and the topography and other parameters which have impact on the work. After opening of Technical bids on 03.02.2017, documents and routes / network received with bids (43 initial bids and counter bids against each initial bid) will be scrutinized and finalized. Financial bids of the bidders whose technical bids are found valid, will be opened and evaluated to select the airline operators under RCS.;

(f): Alliance Air (a wholly owned subsidiary of Air India) is inducting 70 seater ATR-72 600 type of turbo prop aircraft in order to improve regional air connectivity.